

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017
5:00 PM**

Present: James Crawford, Karen Sanchez, Richard Schadewald, Jay Tibbetts, Joe Van Deurzen

Excused: Susan Molenaar, Harold Pfothhauer

Staff Present: Eric Pritzl, Anna Destree, Rob Gollman, Ann Steinberger, Patti Zich (minutes recorder)

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Chairman Richard Schadewald called the meeting to order.

2. Approval / Modification of the Agenda

MOTION: To approve agenda.

Van Deurzen / Crawford

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes of meeting of May 2, 2017

Discussion of correction to minutes.

MOTION: To approve minutes as amended.

Crawford / Van Deurzen

MOTION CARRIED.

4. Approval of Minutes of meeting of July 11, 2017

MOTION: To approve the minutes of July 11, 2017

VanDeurzen / Crawford

MOTION CARRIED.

5. Comments from the Public

None.

6. 2018 Budget Proposal

Patti stated the difference between the 2017 budget and the 2018 budget in regard to salaries was the reduction due to a transfer in wages for a grant that is no longer available. Patti further stated the reduction in overtime is due to the history and the reduction in operation and maintenance was due to a renegotiated lease. There was also an increase in fringes due to benefits costs increasing and an increase Technology Services chargebacks for a total increase over the previous year of \$32,386.

Mr. Schadewald stated he will be making a request at Human Services Committee to increase the tax levy by \$27,000. Mr. Schadewald states one way this can be used is to gather information or for studies relating to wind turbines.

Anna shared the 2018 budget initiatives; to become a ServSafe course provider and testing site; to develop a quality improvement plan and have a quality improvement process in place; increasing adolescent immunization rates in Brown County; having a notification system in place to notify license establishments during an emergency; and a coordinated public health response to the rise in opiate use. This is a joint initiative as the newly formed Health and Human Services.

Jim Crawford asked about peer counseling and is this a coordinated response with counseling services that currently exist. Erik Pritzl stated we are looking in the department we are working with providers to see where they fit best with what they are providing. Erik talked about positioning ourselves to work with the community such as DarJune and Rise Together. Erik stated the great thing about being a department like this is that we can now tackle prevention as well as treatment and coordinate efforts.

Joe asked about the ServSafe program. Rob states that along with the new community health educator position that was created, it is our opportunity to get this going. Rob states we can also serve as a site for proctored exams for individuals that will take the online course but still have to take the exam in a proctored location. Rob hopes we will be able to do that and offer some very basic low level food sanitation and safety courses, in Spanish, English and potentially in Hmong. Anna indicated a big thing to note is that they are not required to take it through us; it is just an additional offering in the community. Joe wondered if there could be some kind of an incentive. Rob liked the idea of an incentive and did not know all the legalities of what we can do. There were examples given of possible incentives. Mr. Schadewald suggested we do more self-promotion of the services we provide and would like that on the next agenda.

MOTION: To receive and place on file 2018 budget proposal.

Van Deurzen / Crawford

MOTION CARRIED.

7. Health Officer's Report.

Anna stated that the Board of Health should have received an invitation from Beyond Health for the Community Health Assessment. Public Health must do one every 5 years. The hospitals are every 3 years. We have decided to do the assessment every 3 years in collaboration with the hospitals. It will be October 17th at Lambeau Field and Anna would like the board there to provide their input.

Anna stated the implementation committee for Health and Human Services is working on common policy areas and are focusing on 5 areas 1) work, hours, attendance expectations 2) emergency and safety 3) dress code 4) training and development and 5) performance evaluations. Anna stated at the there was also a discussion of the possibly of how we can partner with the media. How do we have a partnership with the media, when it counts? She states it is understanding their processes and how can we better understand how the media works so we get our messages out better and getting those critical messages when they need it from us. She states it is building that partnership with the media while also promoting Health and Human Services.

Ann Steinberger indicated the state budget passed and included in that was communicable disease (CD) funding. She is waiting to hear how much Brown County will be receiving to assist with CD prevention.

Rob indicated we are in the standardization process for the inspectors. One of the complaints Rob has heard from some operators is that there is inconsistency in inspections and he is working on that. They have one inspector that is state standardized. We will have two standards by the end of the year. We have three additional staff have been standardized by our internal standards.

Mr. Schadewald asked about branding and how well do we take care of Brown County employees and their health concerns. Ann indicated Brown County has an occupational health nurse contracted through Bellin Health. Mr. Schadewald asked about safety. Ann Steinberger indicated we post information on the digital board related to Lyme season, influenza, etc. Mr. Schadewald asked if we are doing This is Public Health again. Anna indicated we will be doing something but not quite as large. Mr. Crawford asked if we do hearing testing of employees. Anne Steinberger questioned if the occupational health nurse does that. He asked Anne to check on that and report at the next meeting.

MOTION: To receive and place on file the health officers report

Crawford / Van Deurzen

MOTION CARRIED.

8. Receive new information on wind turbines – standing item.

Barbara Vanden Boogart, Vice President of BCCRWE, Holy Mor Road, Green Bay, WI.

Ms. Vanden Boogart stated the central focus of Dr. McCunney's presentation was the Health Canada study, which she indicates cannot be applied to Shirley Wind. Ms. Vanden Boogart quoted that

Health Canada and its lead researcher, Dr. David Michaud, have made it clear in public papers and statements that:

- “...results may not be generalized to areas beyond the sample as the wind turbine locations in this study were not randomly selected”
- “...this design does not permit any conclusions to be made with respect to causality.”
- “... the results will not provide a definitive answer on their own.”

She stated Dr. McCunney did not disclose these limitations in his presentation, potentially leaving the impression that the Health Canada study is applicable to Shirley Wind, which she states is not.

Ms. Vanden Boogart submitted and read some critical reviews of the Health Canada study, specifically excerpts from the article, “Health Canada sought private meeting with CanWEA before announcing health study” which Ms. Vanden Boogart states it appears to indicate that the Health Canada study was a collaborative effort between the Canadian government, Health Canada, and the Canadian Wind Energy Association.

Ms. Vanden Boogart submitted and read excerpts relating to statements Dr. McCunney made during his September 12th presentation specifically “*Comments to the Editor-JASA* [Journal of the Acoustical Society of America]”, which Barbara states is a letter of concern regarding the Health Canada study, written by a group of physicians, acousticians, and an audiologist with expertise in wind turbine noise and adverse effects. Barbara stated that the Shirley Wind Project is 50DBA, so audible, and as you listen to the range of dba in here, it is referring to health impacts at various levels and 50dba is above any that are listed.

Ms. Vanden Boogart stated per the September 14, 2017 issue of the Denmark News, which James Crawford stated “The Board of Health could rescind the human health labeling now that we’re better informed.”

Ms. Vanden Boogart states that while the Board of Health is now better informed; the result is quite the opposite. She states the testimonies of Dr. Coussons and Robert Rand support the Human Health Hazard declaration. She further states both of them have had professional interactions with some of the adversely affected residents at Shirley Wind, and have personally participated in investigating what could be the cause of their complaints, including supportive acoustical data.

Ms. Vanden Boogart states she would like to respond to the James Crawford's question, “In 2017 there are no complaints from local residents to Brown County and only seven complaints to the Town of Glenmore. They were about flicker, not noise. Doesn't this imply that those near Shirley Wind are not suffering? She states over time people give up on filing complaints when the conditions leading to the complaints continue to exist, which has been the experience of Shirley Wind residents for almost 7 years. She states it would be a mistake to assume that those not submitting complaints again are not continuing to suffer.

Ms. Vanden Boogart states that there were complaints filed by nineteen separate residents in the Town of Glenmore.

Ms. Vanden Boogart submitted a sampling of the 2017 health complaints along with a summary table of written adverse health complaints or statements that have been filed by residents and visitors at Shirley Wind. She states these complaints are not limited to shadow flicker, as Mr. Crawford alleges.

Ms. Vanden Boogart disagrees with a statement that Duke Energy public relations spokeswoman Tammie McGee has in the September 13, 2017 Green Bay Press Gazette article stating:

"Tammie McGee, spokeswoman for North Carolina-based Duke Energy, said outside the meeting, "We do not receive these types of complaints from people who live near our other wind farms."

And submits two articles she states describes a lawsuit against Duke Energy by plaintiffs who are hosting Duke Energy wind turbines on their own land.

Ms. Vanden Boogart states the word "*annoyance*" is an underappreciated term that has a specific medical meaning in research literature, where it means a significant degradation in the quality of life and of health, including physical and mental well-being. She states Dr. McCunney's presentation and papers focus on direct health effects and tend to marginalize the importance of annoyance as an indirect health effect. She states this is not the opinion of Health Canada and other researchers, as shown by the following excerpts from one of the Health Canada critical reviews:

Health Canada's 2005 paper, "Community Noise Annoyance, Its Your Health", states:

"The most common effect of community noise is annoyance, which is considered an adverse health effect by the World Health Organization"

Health Canada's 2014 paper, "*Wind Turbine Noise and Health Study: Summary of Results*" states:

"WTN [wind turbine noise] annoyance was found to be statistically related to several self-reporting health effects including, but not limited to, blood pressure, migraines, tinnitus, dizziness, scores on the PSQI, and perceived stress" as well as related to "measured hair cortisol, systolic and diastolic blood pressure."

also..

The Principal Investigator of the Wind Turbine Noise and Health Study has also stated that "noise-induced annoyance is an adverse health effect".

Ms. Vanden Boogart states the Colby et al. (2009), a paper co-authored by Dr. McCunney, discusses wind turbine symptoms and reports that symptoms such as headaches, nausea, tinnitus, vertigo "... are not new and have been published previously in the context of "annoyance"..." and are the "... well-known stress effects of exposure to noise ..."

Ms. Vanden Boogart states the statements she has read regarding medically defined annoyance, along with the documented ILFN levels at Shirley Wind, support the Human Health Hazard declaration made by the Brown County (WI) Board of Health.

Bill Acker, stated in recent Court Case Decisions, the first is Falmouth Massachusetts that on June 20, 2017 Superior Court Judge Cornelius J. Moriarity II ordered the shutdown of the two 1.65 MW wind turbines in the court case of Barry Funfar & Diane Funfar against the Falmouth Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Acker stated Judge Moriarity concluded that the operation of the wind turbines and the consequent sound emissions constitute an unreasonable interference with the complainant's enjoyment of their property, and constitute a nuisance. Mr. Acker states in an emergency meeting the town selectmen (aldermen) instructed the town manager to comply with Moriarity's order. Mr. Acker states the second case is in Cork, Ireland where there is a Wind Farm very similar to the Shirley Wind Project with 10 2.3 MW wind Turbines. Mr. Acker states that seven families have succeeded in their legal action against Enercon for their suffering due to the wind turbines erected in November 2011. The families claimed they have been severely impacted, particularly through the noise pollution. Mr. Acker states that once the lawsuit was filed Enercon admitted to creating a nuisance which some believe was done to prevent the distribution of the medical evidence. Mr. Acker states the third is in Lisbon Portugal. Mr. Acker states that some time ago he presented a case where a wind farm with 9 wind turbines each 2.0 MW in size. Near this Wind Farm was a Lusitano stud farm that was having deformity problems with their new born foals. They developed a flexural deformity between the hoof

and the leg resulting in euthanization. Mr. Acker states the family had health problems and thus moved to the city. Mr. Acker states a Masters Thesis on this case revealed that the flexural deformities were due to the wind turbines and later the Supreme Court Justice of Portugal ordered the removal of 4 wind turbines neat the family home and stud farm.

Jim Crawford stated it was helpful to have Dr. McCunney address such a complex issue as you don't want a gynecologist doing it. Mr. Crawford states Dr. McCunney has about 114 papers and written two books. Mr. Crawford states Dr. McCunney's basic conclusion was the Health Canada study said there were no health effects directly from wind turbines. Mr. Crawford states Dr. Coussons, the local anti-wind doctor, has said and quoted in the Denmark news, that they are not proven to be harmful. Mr. Crawford brought copies of the Denmark News which quoted him and submitted for the record. Mr. Crawford believes it is a well balance article but the author did make a mistake by saying the Rand study cost 2.1 million but that is what the Health Canada study slide said. He states the author, Charles Collier, crossed off the 2.1 million and initialed it.

Mr. Crawford asked where do we go from here? He stated a sound meter is a possible idea and he would want an engineer running it who is not with Duke Energy or with the Town. Mr. Crawford stated he asked Dr. McCunney what can we do to study this further. Dr. McCunney stated you could do a pretest on a new wind farm and you could do a post test. Mr. Crawford stated he also said you could stratify your health. Jim Crawford states we can as a Board to ask the authors to stratify their data. Mr. Schadewald stated he went to the study afterwards and dove deep and they privatized information as part of their study. Jim Crawford stated you probably want an expert looking at it anyways.

Jim Crawford states the Board's label of a human health hazard is a situation causing concern down there and it is causing annoyance and causing a little fear. He thinks when they do one of the steps above, get the data stratified, get a sound meter, or get person's physician to say it is not a problem or it is a problem, that we should rescind that Human Health label as it has no legal bearing. Mr. Schadewald indicated there should be discussion about possible strategies and doesn't think is a bad thing to constantly reexamine it.

9. Correspondence

Patti indicated correspondence received from Steve Deslauriers dated September 13, 2017 enclosing Glenmore Wind Energy System Ordinance dated 11-6-06 and Amended Conditional Use Permit Resolution No. 161 dated 5-10-07; and correspondence received from Nate Johnson of Duke Energy dated September 20, 2017.

10. All Other Business Authorized by Law

None.

11. Adjournment / Next Meeting Schedule

MOTION: To adjourn meeting

Van Deurzen / Sanchez

MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING: November 14, 2017 5:30 PM NOTE: MEETING TIME CHANGE